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HUNTING *STENOTREMA HUBRICHTI*

BY LESLIE HUBRICHT

While examining some topographic maps of southern Illinois I noted, on the Alto Pass Quadrangle, an area called Pine Hills, which was without doubt the most rugged region in southwestern Illinois. It looked as though it ought to be an ideal place for snails, so I resolved to visit it at the first opportunity. Accordingly on October 14, 1939, I paid the region my first of several visits.



FIG. 1. *Stenotrema hubrichti*, actual size and enlarged. (From Land Mollusca of North America, fig. 423.)

My first view of the Pine Hills was very disappointing, as they had been badly burned and cut over. I drove along the little road at the base of the high cliffs and examined the talus slopes at several places without finding anything of especial interest, until near the north end of the bluffs I came to a place where about twenty feet of the outer talus had been removed for road material. The cliffs are composed of a thin-bedded limestone which breaks off in small pieces which can be used for this purpose without additional crushing. In the older talus

thus exposed, shells were abundant. By far the most abundant of these shells was a flat, carinate stenotreme, which I recognized immediately was no described species. The shells were so abundant that about six hundred were collected in an hour, together with a large number of shells of other species. It was later named *Stenotrema hubrichti* by Dr. Pilsbry, whose figures are here used to illustrate it, by courtesy of the Academy of Natural Sciences. I began a search of the undisturbed talus slopes for living specimens, but without success. On subsequent trips I examined the talus slopes along the entire length of Union County without finding a single recent shell; and fossils only in the Pine Hills region. It appeared that the species was extinct.

During August, 1942, I again visited the Pine Hills, not to try to find *S. hubrichti*, but to get better series of some of the other species found there. It had rained the day before, and the weather was cloudy and threatening—an ideal day for snailing. As I climbed the talus slope at the mouth of a short, steep ravine, or “head-in” as the natives call them, I found a dead shell of *S. hubrichti*—the first shell of this species that I had found on top of the talus. As I climbed higher up the slope I found a second specimen and then a third; and then I found a woodchuck hole from which the shells had obviously come. Since other snails were common I continued to climb the slope and into the head-in. And then I found a part of a fresh shell which had been eaten by a shrew or mouse. The species was not extinct! I overturned a large number of rocks but found only two living specimens. I then turned my attention to the cliff on the south side of the head-in. This proved to be their real habitat, as they were fairly common here in crevices in the rock, and about the roots of plants on the upper part of the cliff, showing a decided preference for such situations as would require the collector to risk his neck to collect them. Their flattened shells enabled them to enter crevices that *S. fraternum* (which was found in small numbers with them), could not enter.

At one time the Mississippi River flowed along the base of the Pine Hills. Due to the influence of the river the bluffs were probably much more moist than at present, and at that time *S. hubrichti* inhabited the face of the main bluff. Later, when

the river cut through west of Fountain Bluff, thus moving about five miles away, the Pine Hills became drier and the snails moved back into the ravines where there was still sufficient moisture.

Because the species was described from fossil material the character of the epidermis could not be given. In life the shell is reddish brown and is densely covered with minute short hairs on both surfaces.

NEW MARINE SHELLS FROM FLORIDA

By JEANNE S. SCHWENGEL

MARGINELLA DENTICULATA DESTINA, n. subsp. Pl. 7, fig. 1.

Shell smooth, polished, amber brown or argus brown color, opaque; fusiform, five rounded whorls, distinct sutures; spire elevated; lateral outlines of body-whorl rounded, becoming straight near the base. Aperture elliptical, more than half the length of shell; columella slightly concave, with four very strong plications, the first horizontal and the following three increasingly oblique. There is a very shallow anal retraction; the outer lip is moderately thickened, and either smooth within with the weak trace of a tooth near the upper end, or having weak traces of three or four teeth near the middle of the lip. Length 7 mm., breadth 3.5 mm., length of aperture 4 mm., width of aperture 1 mm.

Dredged in 18 to 20 fathoms of water off Destin, N.W. Florida, by T. L. McGinty. Type No. 178838 A.N.S.P.

This shell is very similar to *M. denticulata opalina* Stearns, though not quite as long and slightly wider. The color is darker and opaque rather than translucent, with no suggestion of bands as in *M. d. opalina*. The aperture is wider and longer and the outer lip not quite so thickened. In *opalina* the outlines are concave toward the base, as noted by Stearns.

MARGINELLA IDIOCHILA, n. sp. Pl. 7, figs. 2, 3.

Shell small; smooth and glossy; biconic; light ochraceous buff with a narrow white band below the distinct suture, a wider white band below the periphery of the body-whorl and a narrow white band at the base. The apex, of about one whorl, is bluntly rounded, followed by four slightly rounded whorls. Aperture slightly less than half the length of the shell; outer